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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2016, at 3 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Great and eternal God, we refuse to forget Your generous blessings that bring joy to our lives. You satisfy us with good things in every season. We particularly thank You for the laudable life of former Senator John Glenn.

Lord, You have not dealt with us according to our sins. Continue to sustain our lawmakers. Remind them that their days are like grass, which flourishes and then disappears. May they find sustenance in Your steadfast love, striving to please You in all they do. Give them the wisdom of a reverential awe that will trust the unfolding of Your majestic providence even when they do not understand Your movements.

Lord, we thank You for the faithful service through the decades of Your servant, Senator HARRY REID. As he prepares to transition from the legislative branch, give to him and his beloved Landra fair winds and following seas.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we were saddened yesterday to learn of the passing of one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century, John Glenn. He described his childhood as being like something out of a Norman Rockwell painting, but as we all know, his life was anything but ordinary. This smalltown boy from New Concord, OH, came a long way and lived a full life, one that touched many and will not soon be forgotten.

Elaine and I send our condolences to his wife Annie and the rest of the Glenn family.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the House passed a continuing resolution on a very large bipartisan basis, with more than three-fourths voting in its favor.

Let me repeat that. Three-fourths, a majority of both parties, voted for the legislation needed to keep the government open. While some Senate Democrats may want to delay into a government shutdown, House Democrats

overwhelmingly rejected that approach.

The funding in this CR is critical to our Nation's defense. It supports overseas operations, the fight against ISIL, and our forces in Afghanistan. It provides resources to begin implementing the medical innovation bill we passed earlier this week and to start bringing relief to victims of severe flooding across our country, and of course it includes provisions that will guarantee that retired coal miners in Kentucky—in Kentucky—and other States will not lose their health benefits at the end of this month. Would I have preferred that provision to be more generous? Of course I would have. My request to the House was to fund it for a full year, but we will be back at it in April, and I think it is highly unlikely that we will take it away—just as I would have preferred that so many miners' places of employment hadn't been driven into bankruptcy in recent years, which as we all know is due in no small part to President Obama, his policies, and the overwhelming majority of Senate Democrats who support all those policies that have been a huge factor in creating the dilemma we have in coal country in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia. Most of the Senate Democrats support the war on coal.

It has been my intention that the miner health benefits not expire at the end of April next year. As I just said, I am going to work with my colleagues to prevent that, but this is a good time to take yes for an answer. We should pass the CR without delay because if we don't pass the CR, the health benefits will go away at the end of this

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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month. The House is gone. They are through for this session.

Failure to pass this legislation means delaying funding for our troops overseas. Failure to pass this means delaying funding for Flint, MI. I promised Senator STABENOW we would deal with that issue, and we have, in the WRDA bill and the CR that are here, having passed the House. Failure to pass this legislation means delaying funding for storm recovery in many of our States, and of course failure to pass this legislation means creating a shutdown of the government. Over what? We have funded health care for miners through the end of April. We have funding in here for the opioid crisis and a whole lot of other things that Senators say they care about. They want to shut the government down to stop this? Really. It hardly makes sense to me. In fact, passing this CR guarantees that health care will be there for miners through the end of April. It guarantees it. Failure to pass it guarantees it goes away at the end of the month.

I think it is time to get serious. I think we all don't want any of these consequences to come about. The thing to do is to pass this continuing resolution. After we pass that, we will turn to the water resources development bill. The House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan water resources development bill as well, with more than three-fourths in its favor. It was overwhelming on both sides of the aisle.

Now it is our turn to act. Remember, this bill supports waterways, infrastructure, enhances commerce, and maintains American ecosystems. It also authorizes spending in the continuing resolution, which will help families in Flint. Flint is in both of these bills. These are the folks who have been impacted by the drinking water crisis. We will have a vote on WRDA after the CR has been approved.

I encourage my colleagues to work together now so we can pass both of these as soon as possible. It strikes me that delay is not a solution to any of these problems I have outlined.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN

Mr. REID. Madam President, our Nation and the world lost a historic figure yesterday, a legend, John Glenn.

As a relatively new Senator, I had the good fortune to take a trip with him. He led the trip with Ted Stevens of Alaska. It was a wonderful trip. We were in Austria. The Iron Curtain was down. We went into Czechoslovakia and had all the Russian soldiers checking the train. They had dogs.

But around the world, everyone knew that John Glenn was leading that trip, and a number—three, to be exact—of the soldiers, when none of the others

were looking, asked if he would autograph for them just a piece of paper they had, and he did that. Everyplace we went, in Poland—we were all Senators, but there was only one John Glenn. Everyplace we went, he was beloved. He really was an icon.

In reading the morning newspaper, I was disappointed it had a headline, John Glenn known for his space exploits. John Glenn was known for far more than that. Of course, he was our first to circumvent the globe. He told all of us he wore that space capsule, it was so small. In all the news last night, it showed him climbing into that. If you were claustrophobic, you could not get in that, it was so tight. He could reach out and touch both sides of it.

Here this great aviator told me and whoever else was listening that when that came down in the ocean, if they had waited another minute to pick him up, he would have had to throw up. Here was a guy who never got sick any time, but he was getting sick then.

I have so many fond memories of John Glenn. He was so nice to me, as he was nice to everyone. He was an ace in World War II, a fighter pilot. He was an ace in the Korean conflict. I think he had 90 missions there. This may upset some people, but it is a fact of war—war is tough. We were having a debate here on napalm, and someone asked John Glenn: Did you ever use that in World War II?

He said: Yes, we did.

When would you decide to drop your load?

He said: When we could see the whites of the eyes on the people on the ground.

That was John Glenn. He was so thoughtful of everyone else—but a soldier, a marine, a pilot. He held that record for flying across the United States faster than anyone else. He was known by far more than his space exploits. He served in the Senate for 24 years. In all the years I have been here, no one in the Senate had more respect than John Glenn.

His story is legendary. He and Annie, who is a wonderful woman, knew each other when they were little kids, first and second graders. That was a love affair that was ongoing forever. To show the strength of this woman, we only had to look at what happened yesterday after John passed away. She is 96 years old, and she was worried about people coming to her home—with John having died and well-wishers coming—so she went grocery shopping so she would have food in her home when people came to visit.

As a child, Annie was stricken with an inability to speak. She stammered so that no one could hear her—they could hear her, but they couldn't understand her. As she was growing up, John Glenn was her mouthpiece. He would take her phone calls because she couldn't talk on the phone, but she overcame that and became the Annie Glenn we all know who speaks very well.

I am not going to go over the list of his many awards. The Distinguished Flying Cross is really a big deal in the military. He was awarded one six times.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a listing of the many awards he received, including the Congressional Gold Medal, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Distinguished Flying Cross, six different times,

Navy Unit Commendation for service in Korea,

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal,
The American Campaign Medal,
The World War II Victory Medal,
The China Service Medal,
The National Defense Service Medal,
The Korean Service Medal,
The United Nations Service Medal,
The Korean Presidential Unit Citation,
The Navy's Astronaut Wings,
The Marine Corps' Astronaut Medal,
The NASA Distinguished Service Medal,
The Congressional Space Medal of Honor,
The Congressional Gold Medal,
and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. REID. Madam President, after a quarter of a century, Senator Glenn left the Senate, and here is what he said: "Yeah, I'll miss it, sure. But you move on to other things. That's it."

That was John Glenn. He moved on to other things.

Until a couple of years ago, he flew his own airplane. When he was a Member of the Senate, he flew back to Columbus, OH. I think that is where he went. Every time he wanted to go, he didn't take commercial; he flew his own airplane.

So I express my condolences to Annie. I admire the inspiration she has been to everybody who has ever known her. Of course, John Glenn, I repeat, is an icon of the Senate, an icon of the military, an icon of the space program, an icon in life, and a wonderful human being.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 2028, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House Message to accompany H.R. 2028, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.